



U.S. Department of Justice

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TWO MEN CHARGED IN FEDERAL COURT IN CONNECTION WITH DISTRIBUTION OF 7 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; RICHARD W. SANDERS, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration; and HARRY WELLBANK, Supervisor of the Illinois State Police Stateline Area Narcotics Team (“SLANT”), today made the following announcement:

Yesterday, August 16, 2006, two men were arrested and are currently in custody on federal drug charges in connection with their possession of seven kilograms of cocaine. Arrested and charged with possessing with intent to distribute five or more kilograms of cocaine were **EFREN DE LA MORA**, 325 Knowlton, Rockford, Illinois (62 years of age), and **EDUARDO ALCARAZ VIRGEN** (“Alcaraz”), also known as “Lalo,” (25 years of age). De La Mora and Alcaraz are scheduled to appear in federal court on August 21, 2006 at 1:30 p.m.

According to the criminal complaint filed today in federal court, De La Mora and Alcaraz arranged to meet another individual, who was actually an undercover agent, in the parking lot of a store located on East State Street in Rockford, intending to distribute approximately seven kilograms of cocaine. When De La Mora and Alcaraz arrived at the location, they met with the undercover agent and opened a hidden compartment under the glove box of their car, which contained seven kilograms of cocaine each wrapped in black electrical tape. De La Mora and Alcaraz were arrested shortly thereafter.

The arrests announced today were the result of a joint investigation by the Rockford office of the Drug Enforcement Administration and SLANT, a drug task force comprised of law enforcement officers from several area police departments. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney MICHAEL F. IASPARRO.

Members of the public are reminded that a criminal complaint is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. The defendants are entitled to indictment by a federal grand jury and a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving each defendant’s guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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